

HOUSE No. 4571

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



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March 16, 2020

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives,

I am hereby filing for your consideration the attached legislation, entitled “An Act Designating September 14, 2020 as a Legal Holiday.” This legislation is intended to facilitate the postponement of the Boston Marathon, which cannot be held on its scheduled date because of the ongoing and evolving Coronavirus outbreak.

The Boston Marathon is annually the largest athletic event in New England, with an estimated economic impact of more than \$200 million. Passage of this legislation would ensure that the Marathon’s more than 30,000 participants from all over the globe can adjust their plans and still participate in the rescheduled event. For that reason, I respectfully request swift action on this bill.

Respectfully submitted

Charles D. Baker,
Governor

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In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)

An Act designating September 14, 2020 as a legal holiday.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purposes, which are forthwith to make certain changes in law in response to a public health emergency, necessary to carry out to accomplish important public purposes, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, September 14,
2 2020 shall be considered a “legal holiday” as defined in the Eighteenth clause of section 7 of
3 chapter 4 of the General Laws, to be observed in the same manner as other legal holidays in the
4 Commonwealth; provided, however, that sections 5 to 11, inclusive, of chapter 136 of the
5 General Laws shall not apply to September 14, 2020. Furthermore, notwithstanding any general
6 or special law to the contrary, for the purposes of sections 57A, 57D, and 57E of chapter 48 of
7 the General Laws and sections 17A and 17F of chapter 147 of the General Laws, the phrase “the
8 third Monday in April” shall also mean September 14, 2020.